

Apostrophe Rules

Some of the most common apostrophe rules:

Forming the Possessive:

- For a singular noun or an indefinite pronoun, add an *apostrophe* and an *s*: *skier's paradise; somebody's wallet*
- For a plural noun that ends in *s* (add only an apostrophe after the *s*): *teachers' lounge*
- For a plural noun that does not end in *s*, add an *apostrophe* and an *s*: *children's playground*
- For a name that is difficult to pronounce when an *apostrophe* and an *s* is added, add the apostrophe alone: *Sophocles' plays*
- For two or more persons holding joint ownership, use an *apostrophe* and an *s* on the last name: *Mary and Bob's Restaurant*
- For two or more persons holding separate ownership, add an *apostrophe* and an *s* to each name: *Bob's and Betty's candy*

To Show Omission

- To show missing letters in the formation of contractions: *I can't go to the movies.*

Forming Plurals

An apostrophe should almost never be used to form a plural. The one exception to this is when it is used for clarity to show the plural of single letters or numbers. For example:

- Mind your p's and q's.
- There are a lot of 0's on that page.